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Soil Conservation Service - USDA

Phoenix, Arizona

Water Supply Outlook for Arizona
March 20, 1985

WATER SUPPLY
OUTLOOK

The general outlook continues to call for above average surface water supplies in Arizona. Streamflow forecasts remain in the above average range for the March-May period. Conditions near March 15 have called for an increase in the forecast runoff on the Salt and Gila Rivers. Other forecasts remain unchanged from those issued on March 1. Reservoir storage is above average for mid March.

PRECIPITATION
AND SNOW COVER

Arizona received some light precipitation from March 1-5. Heavier amounts were received from March 11-17. Between these two periods of precipitation the state was almost constantly covered by an overcast as a result of a tropical air mass. The resultant heat from this air mass produced a great amount of snowmelt. Snow surveys near March 15 indicate that the snow pack is still average to above average but greatly reduced from what it was on March 1.

Basin Conditions During the First
Half of March 1985

<u>Basin</u>	Precip - % average	Snowpack - % average	
	<u>Mar 1-15</u>	<u>Mar. 1</u>	<u>Mar. 15</u>
Salt	128	157	103
Verde	73	183	120
San Francisco/Gila	153	163	104
Little Colorado	117	133	91
Mimbres	116	228	172
Lower Colorado	75	--	--
Grand Canyon	--	144	121
Chusha Mts.	--	186	150
(estimate)			

STREAMFLOW

Forecasts of spring runoff range from 95% of average on the Virgin river at Littlefield to 233% of average on the Gila River at Virden. Most major streams are forecast to run around 200% of normal for the March-May period. Observed streamflow for the period March 1-15, 1985, was above normal in response to the melting snowpack plus the addition of rain.

Observed Streamflow - March 1-15,1985

<u>Stream</u>	<u>1000's acre feet</u>	<u>% of average</u>
Salt R.	180	284
Verde R.	64	113
Gila R. - Solomon	104	345
San Francisco R./Clifton	41	313

RESERVOIR
STORAGE

Water levels in major reservoirs were reported to be near average to much above average for March 15. Combined storage of the six Salt River Project reservoirs was 1,938,000 acre feet. This system is 96% full. San Carlos was holding 961,000 acre feet. Storage in Lake Pleasant was 123,400 acre feet at 78% of capacity. Total storage in Lakes Powell, Mead, Mohave, and Havasu was 47,355,000 acre feet at 88% of capacity. Many small reservoirs have filled. These include Lyman, Show Low, and Willow Lake. Watson Lake is 94% full.

All streamflow forecasts are coordinated between the Soil Conservation Service and the National Weather Service. All Averages and percentages of average are based on the 20 year period 1961-1980.

MARCH 15, 1985

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
BASIN, STREAM and/or FORECAST POINT	FORECAST		FORECAST PERIOD	THOUSAND ACRE FEET	
	Thousand Acre Feet	Percent of Average		Last Year	Average †
<u>Salt River Basin</u>					
Salt R. nr. Roosevelt	600	181	Mar-May	121	332
"	280	224	March	45	125
Tonto Cr. nr. Roosevelt	46	96	Mar-May	5.1	48
"	25	74	March	2.2	34
<u>Verde River Basin</u>					
Verde R. abv Horseshoe	230	126	Mar-May	42	182
"	135	135	March	16	100
Grante Cr.	3.0	--	Mar-May	--	--
Willow Cr.	2.6	--	Mar-May	--	--
Lake Mary Inflow	6.8	--	Mar-May	--	--
<u>San Francisco/Upper Gila R. Basin</u>					
San Francisco R. - Glenwood	54	200	Mar-May	6.8	27
San Francisco R. - Clifton	110	196	Mar-May	22	56
Gila R. - Gila	98	228	Mar-May	19	43
Gila R. - Virden	126	233	Mar-May	21	54
Gila R. - Solomon	240	212	Mar-May	42	113
"	165	295	March	16	56
Gila R. - Calva	175	219	Mar-May	18	80
<u>Little Colorado River Basin</u>					
Little Colorado R. - Greer	10.5	135	Mar-June	--	7.8
Little Colorado R. - Lyman Res.	18	141	Mar-June	4.6	12.8
Little Colorado R. - Woodruff	40	231	Nov-June	--	17.3
<u>Lower Colorado River Basin</u>					
Virgin R. nr. Littlefield	59	95	Apr-June	38	62
Inflow to Lake Powell - Colorado R.	10,000	134	Apr-July	--	--
<u>Mimbres River Basin</u>					
Mimbres R. nr Mimbres	6.5	186	Mar-May	1.0	3.5

